

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2004. This amendment should be entered since the only change is the cancellation of certain claims. Claims 1-18 have been canceled. Only claims 19-21 are now pending. A Rule 131 declaration has also been filed herewith, evidencing that Tsujimura is not prior art.

Claim 19 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kumagai in view of Tsujimura. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

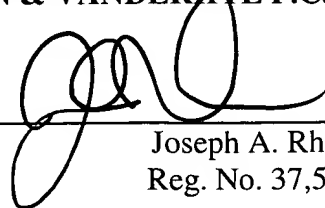
Tsujimura is not prior art. In particular, applicants invented the instant invention well prior to the May 15, 2000 U.S. filing date of Tsujimura. A Rule 131 declaration is attached hereto establishing the earlier invention by applicants. Since Tsujimura is not prior art under Section 102(e), the aforesaid Section 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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